ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what area was covered with forests in M.P. as on 1st November, 1956;

(b) what was the area covered with forests in M.P. as on 1st July, 1987.

(c) what is the percentage of the area which has lost its forest cover in M.P. during all these years and what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the development of the already underdeveloped State of M.P. is being adversely affected because of the difficulty in getting the forest land for the purpose; and

(e) whether the Government of India are thinking of reviewing this aspect and relaxing the rules so that the development works of the State do not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: (a) and (b) Legally classified forests area in Madhya Pradesh in 1956 was 19.15 million ha. and 15.54 million ha. in 1986. Figures relating to forest cover as on 1.7.87 are not available.

(c) The area which lost its forest cover during the period 1956—86 was 3.61 million hectares, which is 8.17 per cent of the geographical area of the State. The loss has been due to fires, heavy grazing and heavy demand for wood and other forest products.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Laying of power transmission lines by the Chinese on East-West Highway in Nepal

2706. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese are lying power transmission lines along the East-West Highway in Nepalese Tarai close to the Indian border; and

(b) if so, what are its implications *vis-a-vis* our security and what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Misuse of a passport by Jarnail Singh Girn

2707. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one Jarnail Singh Girn was intercepted at Los Angeles international airport on August 12, 1986 while trying to enter the USA on a forged passport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether he had conspired with one Shri Sat Pal Malhotra of South Avenue, New Delhi, whose passport was utilised by him for the purpose of forging the passport;

(d) if so, whether Shri Sat Pal Malhotra has been chargesheeted and arrested;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps are being taken to arrest him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (f) On 4-3-1986, the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi informed this Ministry that one Shri Jarnail Singh Girn attempted to enter the United States on a passport on which the photograph had been substituted. The passport No. X 440972 was originally issued in the name of Mr. Sat Prakash Malhotra. After interrogation, Mr. Girn withdrew his application for admission to the United States and returned to India on 12-8-1986. The Central Bureau of Investigation registered a case against Shri Sat Prakash Malhotra on 29-12-1986 and the matter is under investigation.